

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06001 090606Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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P R 081517Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3003
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6001

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: WHO, IS, ID, XF
SUBJ: ISRAEL DISAPPOINTED OVER WHO REPORT

REF: (A) GENEVA 6416, (B) STATE 114641, (C) TEL AVIV 4895

1. THE DIRECTOR OF MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION
AVRAHAM PRIMOR SHOWED EMBOFF THE WHO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
REPORT ON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS. GOI IS
VERY UNHAPPY ABOUT THE REPORT WHICH IT SEES AS DEALING
PRIMARILY WITH POLITICAL ISSUES IN A RATHER CRITICAL AND
NEGATIVE WAY. THIS, PRIMOR FEELS, IS CONTRARY TO ASSUR-
ANCES GIVEN TO THE GOI BY WHO AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.
PRIMOR ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THIS SEEMS TO BE
PART OF A MAJOR EFFORT BY THE ARABS TO GET ISRAEL CONDEMNED
AGAIN IN THE VARIOUS UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, WHO THEN ARE
ASKED TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS AND BAR ISRAEL FROM PARTICIPATING
FURTHER IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE AGENCIES. HE CITED
PARTICULARLY GOI CONCERN OVER POSSIBLY SIMILAR DEVELOPMENTS IN
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2. IN DISCUSSING THE CONTENT OF THE REPORT PRIMOR COMPLAINED
THAT IT CONSISTED PRINCIPALLY OF A COLLECTION OF COMPLAINTS
OF VARIOUS ARAB HEALTH OFFICIALS, DOCTORS AND MAYORS IN THE
OCCUPIED AREAS WITHOUT ANY EFFORT TO EXAMINE THEIR VALIDITY
OR ANY REFERENCE TO STATISTICAL DATA AND OTHER EVIDENCE.

THE HOSTILE OVERTONES OF THE REPORT ARE ATTRIBUTED PRINCIPALLY TO THE LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE COMMISSION (VIGNON).

3. PRIMOR SAID THE GOI WILL PREPARE A REPORT ANSWERING THE COMPLAINTS, BUT FEELS THAT REGARDLESS OF THE FACTS, THE DOCUMENT AS SUBMITTED WILL BE USED AS BASIS FOR ASKING SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL.

3. THE REPORT OPENS WITH A COMPLAINT THAT INITIALLY AN ISRAELI OFFICIAL TRIED TO BE PRESENT DURING AN INTERVIEW AND THAT IN ANOTHER CASE THE ISRAELIS SEEMED TO HAVE HESITATED IN MAKING AN APPOINTMENT AS REQUESTED. THEREAFTER, HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION EXPERIENCED NO FURTHER DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING ANYONE THEY DESIRED WITHOUT ISRAELI INTERFERENCE. THIS IS FOLLOWED BY A COMMENT THAT THE CONTINUING OCCUPATION AFFECTS THE MENTAL HEALTH OF THE INHABITANTS AND THAT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE INADEQUATE. THE REPORT ALSO SCORED THE INADEQUACY OF MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES, THE LACK OF PARAMEDICAL TRAINING, DIFFERENT MEDICAL STANDARDS IN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED AREAS, THE RELATIVELY LOW PAY FOR MEDICAL PERSONNEL WHICH FORCES DOCTORS TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR INCOMES THROUGH PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE, AND THE DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY THE REFUSAL OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO LET TRAINED MEDICAL PERSONNEL RETURN TO THE WEST BANK FROM OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. THE REPORT FURTHER COMMENTS ON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN PRISONS AND CITES PARTICULARLY THE

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SUFFERING OF SOME 300 POLITICAL PRISONERS SERVING LIFE SENTENCES WHO ARE PERMITTED FAMILY VISITS ONLY ONCE A MONTH. HOWEVER, THE REPORT DOES NOT GIVE HEALTH STATISTICS OR DRAW ANY COMPARISONS BETWEEN HEALTH CONDITIONS BEFORE THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND NOW.

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